

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Pedestrian Countdown Timers Coming To Columbus** *Pilot Program Designed to Improve Pedestrian Safety*



(Columbus) Timers that will show pedestrians how many seconds they have to cross the street will be operational Friday afternoon, Nov. 17, at the intersection of West Broad Street, Civic Center Drive and Marconi Boulevard.

The timers are part of a year-long pilot project at four intersections:

- West Broad Street, Civic Center Drive and Marconi Boulevard
- West Broad Street and Central Avenue
- Cleveland Avenue and Mt. Vernon Avenue
- Fifteenth Avenue and North High Street

**“Whether you are in our neighborhoods or the streets of downtown, our goal is to make it safer for pedestrians, bikes and visitors to get around Columbus, and these countdown timers will help everyone be safe crossing the street,” Mayor Michael B. Coleman said.**

Pedestrians often are confused about when they can safely cross at a signalized intersection, with some thinking they have to reach the other side before the “Don’t Walk” symbol – white etching of a man walking – pops up. In fact, it’s OK for pedestrians to continue crossing the street once the “Don’t Walk” symbol – orange etching of an upraised hand – is displayed.

What is not OK is for pedestrians to step off the curb when the “Don’t Walk” symbol is displayed.

**“The countdown timers will help the pedestrian understand what the symbols mean and allow them to cross confident in the knowledge that they have enough time to cross the street before the traffic signal changes from red to green,” Public Service Director Henry Guzmán said.**

Timers at the three other intersections will be operational before Thanksgiving, weather permitting, and fliers with information about the countdown timers will be available at each intersection.

Countdown timers are just one of a number of pedestrian-safety measures undertaken by Mayor Coleman and Columbus City Council since 1999. Others include:

- Installation of 11.5 miles of sidewalks to 27 Schools;
- Passage of legislation requiring all new housing developments have sidewalks;
- Installation of 17,500 neighborhood ADA curb ramps;
- Installation of School Zone warning lights at 98 schools, along with new signs and pavement markings, a \$1,400,000 investment;
- Installation of new yellow-green school zone warning signs at 101 schools at a cost of \$159,000;
- Installation of 65 new "Look Left - Look Right" mats at Elementary Schools;
- Increased penalties for speeders in School zones, resulting in nearly 10,000 tickets being issued;
- Purchase of 10 speed trailers, with 10 more scheduled to be purchased, bringing the total to 22;
- Installation of 462 traffic-calming devices in 19 neighborhoods; working in six neighborhoods this year, including near McGuffey Elementary School in the Linder Area.